

PARKS & RECREATION

Steve McDaniel, Director

Fort Wayne Board of Park Commissioners

Justin Shurley, President

Cory Miller, Vice-President

Rick Briley, Commissioner

Jenna Jauch, Commissioner

General Information

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains over 2,800 acres of public park land and provides numerous recreation facilities, programs and services for the Fort Wayne community. The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department was created in 1905 when the Indiana General Assembly adopted the Cities and Towns Law IC.

The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department is administered by a four-member bipartisan Board of Park Commissioners; with each commissioner being appointed by the Mayor and serving a four-year term. The Board reviews and approves the annual budget, approves expenditures, holds regular public meetings as required by law and approves the awarding of all contracts.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life in Fort Wayne by providing positive opportunities for leisure time and by being stewards of our parklands, facilities, public trees, and other resources entrusted to our care.

This mission is accomplished through the services provided by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation divisions of Finance and Support Services, Marketing, Parks, Parks Planning and Development, Recreation Services, Foellinger Theatre and Zoo.

Finance and Support Services Division

The Finance, Support Services and Theatre Division is responsible for the financial accounting, operations and programming of the Foellinger Theatre, program registration, facility reservation, budgeting, purchasing, payroll and administrative functions of the department.

Marketing Division

The Marketing Division is responsible for the public relations, publications, promotions, grant writing, service quality, strategic planning, market research, corporate sponsorship and other marketing/planning functions.

Parks Division

The Parks Division is responsible for operation and maintenance of the park land and facilities, vehicle and machinery operation and upkeep, building repairs and maintenance, construction, and engineering.

Parks Planning and Development Division

The Parks Planning and Development Division is responsible for short- and long-term planning, park and street trees, public gardens and flower beds, park landscaping, operation of the greenhouse, special projects, and riparian. The Division is also responsible for the operations and programming of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory.

Recreation Services Division

The Recreation Services Division is responsible for most of the recreational programs and facilities operated by the department. Facilities include: three public golf courses, two driving ranges, disc golf courses, tennis centers, tennis courts, pickleball courts, multipurpose athletic fields, basketball courts, ball diamonds, soccer fields, three aquatic centers, splash pads, boat launches, day camps, campground, dog parks, Community Center, Riverfront Park, Skate Park, Lifetime Sports Academy, Salomon Farm, Lindenwood Nature Preserve, and the Hurshtown Reservoir. The Division also manages the McMillen Community Center, three youth centers, and the summer playground program. The Division hosts a number of citywide and cultural events, offers competitive and instructional programs in athletics and outdoor recreation, and art programs, runs a travel program for seniors, families and adventure travelers, and offer classes covering a variety of special interests for preschool through older adult.

Zoo Division

The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo Division is operated under an operating agreement between the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department and the Fort Wayne Zoological Society.

PARKS
Dept # 0121
2026 BUDGET COMPARISON

	2024 ACTUAL	2025 ACTUAL THRU 30-Jun-2025	2025 REVISED BUDGET	2026 SUBMITTED	\$ INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM REVISED TO 2026	% CHANGE FROM REV TO 2026
5111 WAGES	9,792,691		10,646,381	10,771,581	125,200	
5125 OVERTIME PREMIUM	191,874		190,000	177,000	(13,000)	
5131 PERF - EMPLOYERS SHARE	879,563		981,723	1,000,297	18,574	
5132 FICA	615,633		700,440	712,695	12,255	
5134 LIFE MEDICAL & HEALTH INSURAN	1,651,000		1,755,000	1,950,000	195,000	
5136 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	10,218		10,941	11,063	122	
5137 WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	73,472		70,637	73,932	3,295	
513A PERF - EMPLOYEES/PD BY CITY	238,892		262,961	267,937	4,976	
513R RETIREES HEALTH INSURANCE	130,000		108,000	105,000	(3,000)	
5140 MERIT INCENTIVE POOL	29,243		—	—	—	
5162 ACCRUED WAGES ADJ	83,800		—	—	—	
5180 TOOL ALLOWANCE	4,850		—	—	—	
Total 5100	\$13,701,236	\$ 6,750,163	\$ 14,726,083	\$ 15,069,505	\$ 343,422	2.33%
5213 COMPUTER SUPPLIES	25,027		24,300	24,150	(150)	
5219 OTHER OFFICE SUPPLIES	24,543		23,450	24,450	1,000	
5231 GASOLINE	147,018		154,119	151,369	(2,750)	
5232 DIESEL FUEL / FUEL OIL	111,068		163,429	122,174	(41,255)	
5233 OIL	10,490		16,000	18,000	2,000	
5234 TIRES & TUBES	28,380		36,542	36,542	—	
5239 OTHER GARAGE & MOTOR SUPPLIES	23,667		25,100	25,100	—	
5241 MEDICAL & SURGICAL SUPPLIES	21,091		27,800	27,800	—	
5243 RECREATION SUPPLIES	167,359		301,512	294,162	(7,350)	
5245 LANDSCAPE & GRNHOUSE SUPPLIES	244,753		294,191	330,841	36,650	
5246 HOUSEHOLD & CLEANING SUPPLIES	116,589		91,850	101,136	9,286	
5247 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	1,055		3,150	3,150	—	
5261 BLDG REPAIR & MAINT MATERIALS	222,696		229,222	230,272	1,050	
5262 VEHICLE REPAIR PARTS	93,440		90,000	90,000	—	
5263 OTHER EQUIPMENT REPAIR PARTS	195,889		233,500	224,500	(9,000)	
5271 GRAVEL	11,698		17,000	17,000	—	
5272 BITUMINOUS MATERIALS	—		500	500	—	
5273 SAND	—		2,000	2,000	—	
5274 SALT	18,541		31,000	34,000	3,000	
5291 SMALL TOOLS	32,075		33,500	32,250	(1,250)	
5293 PAINT	19,948		19,698	19,698	—	
5299 OTHER MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	183,825		213,247	194,197	(19,050)	
Total 5200	\$ 1,699,153	\$ 936,151	\$ 2,031,110	\$ 2,003,291	\$ (27,819)	-1.37%
5312 MEDICAL SERVICES	1,852		4,500	3,500	(1,000)	
5314 CONSULTANT SERVICES	—		2,500	1,000	(1,500)	
5315 APPRAISALS & INSPECTIONS	803		850	850	—	
5316 RECREATIONAL SERVICES	166,260		287,799	222,600	(65,199)	
531H BANK SERVICE CHARGES	44,871		37,800	37,900	100	
531K SEMINAR FEES	22,577		26,150	24,650	(1,500)	
5321 FREIGHT EXPRESS & DRAYAGE	1,602		—	—	—	
5322 POSTAGE	78,548		70,775	67,850	(2,925)	
5324 TRAVEL EXPENSES	34,595		27,600	26,100	(1,500)	
5326 MILEAGE	316		2,250	2,250	—	
532C CELL PHONE	10,872		7,500	11,160	3,660	
5331 PRINTING OTHER THAN OFFC SUPPL	76,434		91,000	75,100	(15,900)	
5332 PUBLIC OF LEGAL NOTICES/ADVTER	2,684		16,450	13,000	(3,450)	
5333 PHOTOGRAPHY & BLUEPRINTING	86		500	500	—	
5342 LIABILITY INSURANCE	192,064		199,807	321,883	122,076	

PARKS
Dept # 0121
2026 BUDGET COMPARISON

	2024 ACTUAL	2025 ACTUAL THRU 30-Jun-2025	2025 REVISED BUDGET	2026 SUBMITTED	\$ INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM REVISED TO 2026	% CHANGE FROM REV TO 2026
5351 ELECTRICITY	662,034		772,506	732,384	(40,122)	
5352 NATURAL GAS	208,582		262,016	281,223	19,207	
5353 WATER	695,448		729,595	767,335	37,740	
5356 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	69,778		76,647	68,000	(8,647)	
5361 CONTRACTED BLDG & STRUCT REPAI	125,912		257,150	219,700	(37,450)	
5362 CONTRACTED VEHICLE REPAIR	60,337		55,000	50,000	(5,000)	
5363 CONTRACTED OTHER EQUIPMT REPAI	100,577		129,216	103,033	(26,183)	
5365 JANITORIAL & LAUNDRY SERVICE	40,951		69,273	99,792	30,519	
5369 CONTRACTED SERVICE	791,437		1,010,252	722,920	(287,332)	
536H DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT	453,915		—	—	—	
5371 BUILDING RENTAL	—		1,000	1,000	—	
5374 OTHER EQUIPMENT RENTAL	37,001		54,811	42,525	(12,286)	
5381 PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL - BONDS	885,000		920,000	960,000	40,000	
5382 PAYMENT OF INTEREST - BONDS	366,800		331,725	293,000	(38,725)	
5383 PAYMENT OF AGENT FEES - BONDS	625		—	—	—	
5391 SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DUES	19,220		21,285	24,850	3,565	
5393 TAXES	3,413		10,000	8,000	(2,000)	
5399 OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	148,417		119,884	108,324	(11,560)	
539A OPERATING TRANSFER OUT	2,172,941		481,382	45,501	(435,881)	
539B MASTER LEASE	826,847		—	—	—	
Total 5300	\$ 8,302,799	\$ 2,540,077	\$ 6,077,223	\$ 5,335,930	\$ (741,293)	-12.20%
Total 5400	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	0.00%
Total	\$23,703,188	\$ 10,226,391	\$ 22,834,416	\$ 22,408,726	\$ (425,691)	-1.86%

<u>EXPLANATION</u>	<u>LINES AFFECTED</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
• No material variances		

Parks and Recreation 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program							
FUNDING SOURCE CODE: PS – Private Source ST – State Source LIT-ED – Local Income Tax – Economic Development LE – Capital Lease Financing							
Item #	Project Title & Description	Funding Source	Expenditure				
			2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1	Vehicle Replacements:	LE	498,000	690,000	690,000	690,000	690,000
	Bucket Truck 2026 (1); 2030 (1)		250,000	—	—	—	299,000
	Garbage Truck 2027		—	200,000	—	—	—
	Pickup Truck 2026 (1); 2027 (1); 2028 (1); 2029 (1); 2030 (1)		46,000	83,000	43,000	153,000	43,000
	Dump Truck 2028 (1); 2029 (1)		—	—	290,000	90,000	—
	1 Ton Cargo Van 2027 (1); 2028 (1)		—	65,000	65,000	—	—
	SUV 2027 (2); 2029 (1); 2030 (2)		—	80,000	—	40,000	80,000
	Other Equipment:						
	Mower 2026 (2); 2027 (2); 2028 (1); 2029 (1); 2030 (1)		202,000	202,000	40,000	40,000	170,000
	Utility Vehicles 2029 (1); 2030 (2)		—	—	—	35,000	32,000
	Trailer 2028 (3); 2029 (2); 2030 (2)		—	—	52,000	34,000	34,000
	Landscape/Riparian Equipment 2029, 2030		—	—	—	70,000	32,000
	Forestry Equipment 2027; 2029		—	60,000	—	152,000	—
	Grounds Equipment 2028; 2029		—	—	200,000	76,000	—
2	ADA Improvements	LIT-ED	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
3	Computer Equipment	LIT-ED	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
4	Office Equipment	LIT-ED	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
5	Betterments & Additions	LIT-ED	464,196	500,000	570,000	570,000	590,000
6	Resurfacing Roads\Parking Lots\Tennis Courts\Basketball Courts	LIT-ED	400,000	520,000	570,000	550,000	510,000
7	Playground Site Equipment-Various Parks	LIT-ED	300,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
		PS	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
8	Landscaping Parks & Boulevards	LIT-ED	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
9	Various Parks – Park Signage	LIT-ED	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
10	Street Tree (EAB – Emerald Ash Borer Treatment)	LIT-ED	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
11	Street Tree Planting	LIT-ED	120,000	140,000	160,000	180,000	200,000
		ST	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
12	Street Tree Planting (Citizen Request Match)	LIT-ED	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
13	Park Tree Planting (Canopy Recovery & Emerald Ash Borer)	LIT-ED	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
		PS	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
14	Botanical Conservatory – Glass Replacement	LIT-ED	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
15	Various Parks – Shelter/Pavilion Renovations	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
16	Various Parks – Site Furnishing Replacement	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
17	Various Parks – Energy Conservation	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
18	Various Bridge Improvements	LIT-ED	80,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
19	Various Parks Security Improvements	LIT-ED	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
20	Neighborhood Park Master Plan Implementations	LIT-ED	500,000	650,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
21	Land Acquisition	LIT-ED	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
22	Monument Restoration	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
23	Neighborhood Facilities – Improvements and Renovations	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
24	Recreation Facilities – Improvements and Renovations	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
25	Headwaters Park Various Maintenance Improvements	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
26	Salomon Farm – Various Maintenance	LIT-ED	50,000	60,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
27	Foster Park Golf Course Improvements	LIT-ED	200,000	250,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
28	Botanical Conservatory Various Improvements	LIT-ED	200,000	250,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
29	Miscellaneous Vehicle/Equipment Parts	LIT-ED	69,058	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
30	Master Lease Payment	LIT-ED	816,746	820,000	820,000	820,000	820,000

Parks and Recreation
2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program

FUNDING SOURCE CODE:

PS – Private Source

LE – Capital Lease Financing

ST – State Source

LIT-ED – Local Income Tax – Economic Development

Subtotals		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
LE (Capital Lease Financing)	LE	498,000	690,000	690,000	690,000	690,000
LIT-ED (Local Income Tax – Economic Development)	LIT-ED	4,000,000	4,500,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
ST (State Source)	ST	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
PS (Private Source)	PS	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
TOTAL		4,568,000	5,260,000	5,760,000	5,760,000	5,760,000

2026 – 2030
Parks & Recreation Department
Capital Improvement Program Narrative

1. Annual allocation for the purchases of vehicles and equipment through the Master Lease Program.
2. ADA Improvements include buildings, restroom renovations, and site pathways.
3. Computers and point of sales hardware. This also includes software licenses for various users to be a more web-based provider.
4. Office equipment in various locations and other miscellaneous equipment.
5. Betterments and Additions include: renovations to facilities including roofs, bridges, mechanical, HVAC and various other improvement projects.
6. Resurfacing roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, pathways, and athletic courts including parking lots in parks, greenways, and golf courses.
7. Removal and replacement of aging play equipment, structures and safety surfacing in parks.
8. Landscape plantings to include foundation, garden plant material replacements, and new plantings in parks and on boulevards.
9. Various Parks replacement of the existing signage in parks. Improvements include new updated directional signage and new park monument signage.
10. Treatment of over 1,000 mature ash trees that are street trees from the Emerald Ash Borer. This is an ongoing treatment system of the same trees each year while the EAB is still in the area.
11. This is an ongoing program to plant new street trees in the city replacing those trees that were removed by the EAB and natural mortality.
12. This is an ongoing program to plant new street trees. Funding to combine with homeowner contribution that was previously paid out of Council District Match.
13. This is an ongoing program to plant new trees in the city parks to build up the canopy of our system. This also includes replacement of Ash trees within our parks. This also includes our contribution to the Great Tree Canopy Comeback program.
14. Botanical Conservatory continual glass replacement for removal and replacement of roof glass over the showcase, tropical and arid houses.
15. Various Parks renovations to shelters and pavilions.
16. Various Parks replacement of site furnishings including benches, bleachers, picnic tables, grills, bike racks, trash containers, etc.
17. Energy conservation program throughout the parks looking at replacement of equipment and fixtures that would provide more efficiency and less energy usage.
18. Improvements to various road and pedestrian bridges throughout the park system.
19. Various improvements in parks to improve security in the parks such as security cameras and security systems throughout park facilities.
20. The implementation of the planned improvements for various parks base on Master Plans prepared for the parks.
21. Land acquisition to property adjacent to existing park land. Whenever there is an opportunity to acquire contiguous land the department evaluates those potential opportunities.
22. Monument restoration to various monuments throughout the park system. Restoration is needed prior to the monuments failing.
23. Various neighborhood facilities improvements and renovations including but not limited to interiors and exterior spaces, furnishings, and improvements at Cooper, Jennings, McMillen, and Weisser Center.
24. Various recreation facilities improvements and renovations including but not limited to ball diamonds, soccer fields, golf courses, and tennis courts.
25. Various improvements required for site and facilities repairs in Headwaters Park.
26. Salomon Farm funds intended for various maintenance needs on the barns and buildings.
27. Improvements to the Foster Park golf course and irrigation system.
28. Improvements to the HVAC system at the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory.
29. Small equipment purchases used in park maintenance with values between \$5,000 to \$15,000.
30. Annual re-payment to the Master Lease for equipment and vehicles.